

THE CARBONDALE MIRROR

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Take it

One of the MIRROR editorials this week says area residents should take advantage of programs offered by local health facilities.

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Top player

This week the MIRROR begins its Player of the Week. Find out who is the first to be honored.

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Carbondale's Mail Mam Kay Shanecy closes the door on her Postal Service jeep at the end of a busy day delivering the mail. See story this page. (MIRROR photo by Al Daugevelo)

City's only 'mail mam' doesn't fit the mold

By NAN WATERS

A true U.S. Postal letter carrier who lives in a neighborhood where the house numbers don't run in the proper sequence, would naturally put up his — or her — house numbers on a newly acquired property, with making tape, if necessary.

A true-to-life mail carrier, in the swift completion of his appointed rounds, might not misplace his red, white 'n' blue jeep. Perky Kay Shanecy, Carbondale Post Office's only official female carrier, has done both.

Pretty, model-alm and brown-haired, Kay (not Katherine) relaxes over coffee in the kitchen of the double house she has just bought, and laughs about the lost mail truck.

"I was delivering mail in Olyphant, in a new development where all the houses on both streets looked the same," she explained. "I parked the jeep on the corner of one street, crossed it and got confused since all the houses looked alike."

It was quite a while before I realized I was on another street. I was just about to call the Post Office when I discovered where I was, and where the jeep was."

Misplaced mail truck aside, Carbondale's Superintendent of Postal Operations Louis J. Scombord calls Kay Shanecy "a good worker...a fine worker...conscientious. She works well with the men. We lose nothing by the fact that she is of the female gender."

She does, as Scombord puts it, "a hell of a job."

As liberated as Kay Shanecy, single parent and mother of two sons, Jay, 10, and Robbie, 5, is, she says, "about as liberated as I want to be."

With the postal service two years and four months, she began as a clerk in Clifford, and

transferred to Carbondale in June, 1980. A native of Prompton, she lived in Seeleyville until just three weeks ago. After ten years as a cashier at Great H Mart, a discount department store in Honesdale, she enjoys the healthier, outdoor work...and the better pay and benefits Uncle Sam provides for his postal people.

A few patrons have given her a hard time about being a "lady mailman," but, as she adds, "Once they find out I'm raising and supporting two kids, that's it."

She prefers her correct title — part-time flexible letter carrier...but a 7-year-old boy gave her the quintessential title: MAIL MAM! Another youngster dubbed her "Katy, Katy, the mail lady," which amused her since her given name is Kay, and nobody's ever called her Katy.

As a mailman who is neither male nor man, she's encountered few problems on her route or in the post office.

Bitten once "I've only been bitten by a dog once, and that was more like a bruise, but you have to go through the whole routine with a shot. No, I don't carry mow with me. Once a dog has been hit with it, I think it tends to make them mean from then on. I like dogs."

Kay's day begins early, getting the kids up and off — Jay to Mayfield Elementary School, and Robbie to a sister. She checks in at the post office where she finds out which route she'll have that day. She carries the mail — designating it for the proper houses — and lines up the flat...magazines and large Manila envelopes. Letters are then "pulled down," i.e., put into the proper sequence. If it's a vehicle route, the mail is put into trays in the mail truck. If it's a walking route, it is put into relay bags to be picked up at various relay boxes along the way.

Kay wears the regulation blue shirt and slacks, or in warm weather, walking shorts. She wears out only one pair of black regulation P.O. shoes a year, although she does have them resoled. She puts in a full eight hours a day, 40 hours a week, with a half hour for lunch perched on a stool at Grif's Corner on Church Street, if she happens to be on that route.

Her favorite postal route? Route 10 — Childs and Carbondale Township where she lives. Because, as she says, "It's where I live, and I know the people here. Besides, it was my first one."

Mixed-up numbers

"You ought to do a feature story about the mixed-up house numbers in this neighborhood," she laughed, after it took this reporter three tries before locating her Gordon Avenue address.

"Somebody up the road built a new house and nobody seemed to know where he had to go to get a new house number. He tried the Post Office and someone sent him to city hall." Still, since she is friendly herself, she has already become acquainted with her new neighbors, and knows Route 10 well by this time.

Kay's had little reaction to her gender along her postal routes. However, one incident did occur before she had her new uniform.

Wearing street clothes, she approached an older house, and handed the mail to an elderly woman. "Here's your mail, mam," she said, and the woman thanked her and added, "Isn't this nice?"

As the female letter carrier turned and started down the steps, the senior citizen called after her, "Hooray for women's lib!" That, Kay Shanecy thinks, says it all.

Jermyn faces appeal over house's new use

By NAN WATERS

Jermyn Borough Council was threatened with a mandamus action by Attorney Albert E. Nicholls, Jr., 433 Washington Ave., forcing that body to appoint a third member to its Zoning Board of Appeal during a 90-minute regular meeting last Thursday night.

At the session in the Jermyn Community Building on Jefferson Avenue presided over by Council President Idrie D. (Donald) Edwards, Attorney Nicholls inquired, during the public portion of the meeting, if a third member had been appointed to the board.

Edwards replied, "No, it has been negligence on our part." Nicholls agreed, stating, "It has been three months. You have until Monday morning," the lawyer said firmly.

"What does that mean?" the council president inquired.

"You have until Monday morning," Attorney Nicholls repeated, "or I will file a mandamus action forcing council to do so."

A mandamus is a writ issued by court commanding the performance of a specified official act or duty.

Edwards explained that Council had a "possible candidate whom we have been trying, unsuccessfully, to reach."

On June 22, 1981, Attorney Nicholls and his wife, Catherine, filed an appeal with the Jermyn Board of Appeal. In the appeal, sent by the Scanton law firm of Hughes, Nicholls and Moran, with a covering letter signed by Attorney W. Boyd Hughes, it is alleged that the Jermyn zoning ordinance was violated. The appeal involves the former Jermyn Community House, located at 438 Washington Ave., which was purchased last spring from the Borough for some \$43,000 by Allied Services for the Handicapped Inc., 475 Morgan Highway, Scranton.

Nicholls, who lives almost directly across Washington Avenue from the property in question, alleges that "the building in question is in a residential area, and a permit for special use cannot be granted by the building inspector himself without the permission of the Board of Adjustment (i.e., the Board of Appeals)."

Following the meeting, Robert J. Jones, 403 Jefferson Ave. was contacted and agreed to serve on the Board of Appeals. On

Friday Edwards told the MIRROR that Jones' appointment would be "formalized at the October meeting of Council." He said he believed Jones and the other members of the three-man board, Richard J. Maran and Frank Grumm, would meet this week to reorganize. However, at week's end, Maran was a patient at Carbondale General Hospital.

Nicholls himself is a former member of the Board, having resigned after Allied Services took possession of the building late in the spring of this year.

The structure, which for 39 years served as a Community House for the Borough, was purchased in 1942 by the town for a nominal fee from an estate.

Once owned by the Winter family, the building is a Jermyn landmark, a large Victorian structure which most recently housed meeting rooms, police headquarters, and a lock-up in the basement.

It is allegedly being used by Allied Services as a residence for some ten people who are "being rehabilitated for return to society."

Council approves pension fund for police

Jermyn borough council at Thursday night's meeting also passed an ordinance, on the motion of solon James Davis, Jr., awarding the borough's police pension plan to the Pennsylvania Association of Boroughs.

The plan affects only two of the Jermyn police force, full-time officers Chief Alfred J. Zaborski and Patrolman James J. Kelly.

Only Councilman Thomas Rosemergy abstained from the voting, stating he "did not know enough about it."

The Borough also awarded its unemployment compensation plan to the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs, which Edwards said would mean a savings to the borough of at least 50 percent, since it "will save time and paperwork."

Council also voted unanimously to enter into a contract with PimMOT to provide snow plowing services for a portion of Washington Avenue and Division Street, as far as Depeu Avenue, from Nov. 1, 1981 to April 15, 1982, for which the state will pay the borough \$1,783.08.

park in East Jermyn, reported that the facility is now closed.

"They had had weather in August and didn't make enough even to pay their supervisors," Zrowska commented. He added that the authority would like council's suggestions on replacements for two of the authority members who recently resigned. He also added that "the next payment on the loan at the bank is due Sept. 15," a reference to Jermyn borough's share of the authority's debt service for operation of the tennis park.

Councilman Theodore Chrusch read a letter from Patrolman Howard J. Walton stating that 111 abandoned vehicles in the borough were counted. 50 letters were mailed asking residents to remove them; 63 still remain, and 11 arrests have been made.

In arrears "A quarterly audit from the Lackawanna River Basin Sewer Authority read by Edwards showed that there are a large number of residents whose sewer bills are in arrears, one as much as \$443.49," Edwards commented.

One manufacturing plant within the borough owes "over \$2,000," the Council President noted. These property owners will be prosecuted, he added.

A letter from the Department of Environmental Resources stated that there is a hydraulic overload in the Archbald treatment plant, and no new connections can be made. Additional sewage facilities will be constructed in the future, Edwards said.

Davis stated that 94 percent of the \$25 garbage fees, sent out with tax bills in Jermyn, have been paid. He suggested Borough Secretary John R. Hogarth contact Tax Collector Thomas Parry to get the names of the delinquent six percent, and that they be notified their garbage will not be collected if payment is not received. Bills were due May 1.

Philip Smallcombe told council a basketball league has rented the gymnasium in the Jermyn Community Center for two hours each Monday evening through next May, and asked the solon to check on weak spots in the floor, and the gas heater in the gym.

Bills for August totalling \$2,248.90 were paid from the general fund, and \$1,803.96 from revenue sharing funds.

Other councilmen in attendance were Jack Stevens, who reported on Jermyn Day held Labor Day at the sports complex; Stanley Hollowich Jr., who was asked to draw up specifications for a one-ton dump truck with snow plow attachment; and Robert Westington. Councilman John Comonitski was absent.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The next meeting will be held Oct. 8.

Cites health reasons for leaving chamber post

Mrs. Moro: I resigned a month ago

"I resigned a month ago from Carbondale Area Chamber of Commerce," city Councilwoman Charlotte Moro told the MIRROR this week in a telephone interview.

Mrs. Moro stated she did not feel the proposed change in the Chamber's by-laws preventing city office holders from holding office in the Chamber, was directed

at her.

"I belong to five organizations, including the Pioneer Days committee in addition to City Council," Mrs. Moro added, "and I can't do any more. I've resigned for health reasons. I went to my doctor this morning and he told me, 'Charlotte, slow down!'"

As far as the by-laws change is concerned, Mrs. Moro said, "I agree with that. I'd like to see politics kept out of the Chamber. I also believe the number of officers and directors should be kept down to 15 instead of 21. That's the way it was when we started and I like it that way. Sometimes it's tough enough getting 15 people together for a meeting."



PLANNING FOR CARD PARTY are, from left, Hazel Bellamy, ticket chairman, Jessie Tuttle, card party chairman; and Buelah Bates, ticket committee member. Party is planned by Carbondale General Hospital Women's Auxiliary for Oct. 19 at Durfee Parish Hall, Carbondale. Tickets are available from members or by calling 282-1222.